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May 4, 1900

1092

[Inclosure 2 in No. 625—Translation.]

DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
City of Mexico, Mexico, April 9, 1900.

Mr. AMBASSADOR: I have had the honor to receive your excellency's note of the 7th instant, with a copy of a telegram from the Hon. James D. Phelan, mayor of the city of San Francisco, Cal., in which he reports that said port is absolutely free from the bubonic plague.

I have informed the department of government of this fact. I renew, etc.,
IGNO. MARISCAL.

His Excellency POWELL CLAYTON.

Smallpox in Guadalajara.

CITY OF MEXICO, MEXICO, *April 21, 1900.*

SIR: I give you below copy of a letter received from E. B. Light, United States consular agent, Guadalajara.

I have to inform you that smallpox in epidemic form exists in this city and surrounding towns. I am informed that there are now 150 cases in the City Hospital. On Monday Mrs. Jacob Stocke, of St. Louis, Mo., died of what is known as the black smallpox, which she is supposed to have become infected with while in Mexico City. There are a large number of deaths daily from this disease among the natives. There is but one case to my knowledge among the Americans, one who was sent to the hospital a few days since.

Respectfully,

ANDREW D. BARLOW,
United States Consul-General.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *April 15, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that I arrived here yesterday from Port Limon, Costa Rica, reported at the consulate, and resumed duties.

I have called on the health officials of the city and secured the following information in regard to the health conditions of the port: January, 13 cases, 5 deaths; February, 4 cases, 2 deaths; March, 1 case, no deaths; April to date, 4 cases, 2 deaths, from yellow fever.

January, 5 cases, 2 deaths; February, 16 cases, 9 deaths; March, 17 cases, 11 deaths; April to date, 7 cases, 7 deaths, from smallpox.

The yellow fever situation seems to be better than it was at this time last year, but the indications point to another epidemic this summer. On account of the number of inhabitants rendered immune during the past epidemic, it will be hardly possible to have as many cases as during the past year. The immigration to this port during the past few months has been considerable. There are 2 new regiments of soldiers just arrived from the interior, and there are prisoners being constantly sent here from the higher altitudes. These two conditions are enough in themselves to keep fuel constantly added to the flames. There has been an influx of workmen for the public works and they are generally non-immune foreigners or natives.

I am unable to learn the amount of infection from smallpox that exists in the city nor do I think it possible for me to ascertain.

All known smallpox cases are sent to the pesthouse and the consequence is that many cases are not seen or reported by the physicians until just before or after death. The people can not be blamed much for concealing the cases for there is no physician at the pesthouse.

Article 64 of the Mexican quarantine rules and regulations, which

reads as follows: "All baggage from infected Mexican ports to ports not infected shall be fumigated before embarkation," will be enforced in Vera Cruz this summer.

The majority of all passengers from here to Havana and New York are carried by the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company (Ward Line). This is the only American line out of Vera Cruz and it is the only one that does not carry a physician aboard. Section 5 of act August 2, 1882. of the Navigation Laws of the United States should be strictly enforced on these steamers. If there was a competent surgeon aboard these vessels the danger of infection would be reduced to a minimum.

I will have my report of my trip through Central America finished in a few days and will then send it on.

Respectfully,

SAMUEL H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

NETHERLANDS.

Report from Rotterdam.

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, *April 17, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the transactions of the Service at this port for the week ended April 14, 1900: Five vessels were inspected and received bills of health. The steamship *Statendam* sailed the 12th instant, carrying 75 cabin and 319 steerage passengers. One hundred and fifty-seven pieces of baggage were inspected and 63 pieces disinfected. There were 63 bales of disinfected rags in her cargo. The health of the port of Rotterdam continues good.

Respectfully,

A. R. THOMAS,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

PORTO RICO.

Concerning unlabeled baggage.

SAN JUAN, P. R., *April 16, 1900.*

SIR: Referring to your letter of April 3, 1900 (R. M. W., F. L. G.), advising me of Assistant Surgeon Anderson's fear that unlabeled baggage is being smuggled aboard vessels sailing from Spain for this and other ports and his belief that disinfection of all unlabeled baggage at ports of destination would do much toward stopping this practice, I have the honor to inform you that we are making rigid inspections of all baggage from Spanish ports.

We find steerage baggage very generally labeled, and when not found labeled we had reason to believe in nearly every case that the labels had been torn off in handling. Cabin baggage is arriving unlabeled.

All steerage passengers invariably have inspection cards; some cabin passengers are supplied with them, others are not. The practice in this respect is not uniform at the several ports of embarkation.

Respectfully,

C. H. LAVINDER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.